

pastor Wagner affords some very enter

The chief interest of the story lies in the presentment of social life among English officials in India who take their little England with them and set it up like a toy

A Woman's Confession to an Idol.

Marian Lee's "Confessions to a Heathen Idol" (Doubleday, Page & Co.) belongs to the school of fiction wherein the heroine tells the story of her life by means of letters, a diary or some form of intimate self-revelation designed for public perusal. The introspective woman must have an audience. Her self-consciousness craves sympathy. Her egotism demands recognition. The writer of her forty years is a widow, facing that dreaded age often arouses in women unappropriated in marriage relations and unabsorbed in the rearing of young children. She makes her nightly confessions to a teakwood idol of a taciturn disposition. The confessions are didactic, voluble and personal. The idol, not being supplied with a phonographic apparatus, never interrupts with irrelevant remarks. Why a woman should waste her time and emotions on a wooden image when the right man is at hand is past the comprehension of all men and most women. Evidently the woman wanted to write a book and thought that was the best way since it had the merit of being a scheme.

The story told in these confessions with one eye on the Deity and the other on the audience is the old tale of delayed happiness through a man's loyalty to his dead friend, which interferes with his wedding the willing widow. Various pleasant personages are introduced in the widow's chapters of con-

An Old Law Furnishes a Queer Tale.

An ancient statute once in force in the District of Columbia, which permitted a father to will away his unborn child, is the inspiration of "Mollie's Story," Stanley's new story, "A Modern Madonna" (The Century Company). Since the statute was repealed some ten years ago it is difficult to understand why the book should have been written. Founded upon a dead issue, made up of old time melodramatic material, the story is one of those upon which either praise or blame confers undeserved distinction.

A young widow who has been unhappily married and whose husband is killed by the girl he has wronged finds that her unborn child is willed to her brother-in-law. The solution of the difficulty is to marry the brother-in-law, which she does after endless lawsuits and conflicts, flight and pursuit, argument and brain fever, and the good old time reconciliation at the child's sickbed. The well worn wires of coincidence are pulled, regardless of plausibility, to persuade the reader that the girl is really a mother dying hours and to adopt her child. So the wronged wife, the illegitimate son, the cruel brother and the baby of contention all settle down in a happy family.

Meanwhile the woman suffragists and lobbyists go on righting unjust laws at the national capital, as they repealed the statute upon which "A Modern Madonna" is founded.

Juveniles.

While the tide of fiction is setting in strong this season the current of stories intended for youth, for some reason or other, surpasses in volume and speed the stream of grownup romance. They appear, this year, far ahead of the regular holiday season and their number already is

similar types in fiction and a nice older girl, who is the heroine. The story is designed to arouse the feelings, as it turns out, a tragedy in life, and to some may seem undeerably morbid, but it leads up to a dramatic and affecting climax. The heroine's excess of kindness is not likely to find imitation in America. The pictures are capital.

A steady fight against crime is kept up in Allen French's strenuous tale, "Pelham and His Friend Tim" (Little, Brown and Company). An unusually vindictive and unscrupulous character, French, by bringing countless crimes guided by a fraudulent attorney offers a picture that older readers may find instructive. The story is well told and abounds in vigorous action.

There is promise in the descriptions of the country and of country people in "Roberta and Her Brothers," by Alice Ward (Raley, Little, Brown and Company), but the author leaves the thread for the reader to follow. The theme seems to be the struggle of a high school girl with her inner self, and is not wholly novel. There is a middle aged love story and there are suggestions of impending juvenile affairs of the heart. The reader may wish that the author would stick to grown up fiction and let the half grown alone.

An unusual touch will be found in "The E. Ambler's" by The Old Home (Little, Brown and Company) in the introduction of the Amish people. This enables the author to bring in a good deal of natural, unforced humor when describing the adventures of her city children in the country. There is a horsesack, but the incidents are such as children may enjoy safely.

It was an excellent idea to draw on Sir Walter Scott's "Tales of a Grandfather"

that the best results cannot be secured chosen for fixed terms; that administrative foreman, must have absolute power and that the secret ballot should be adopted for the election system. The author contends and are practically slaves to "the machine."

He divides his study as follows: Democracy; 3. The Cost of Machine Politics; 3. General Review. His view of government" with us to-day means nothing the election machine. Government is not good, and we have achieved not democracy, however, is by no means pessimistic, but ideas for reform.

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in a book for children as has been done in the "Stories From Scottish History," by Macdonald L. Edge (Thomas Y. Crowell and Company). While the "Waverley Novels" and the "Poems" are being reprinted in countless editions Scott's essays and other works which are just as full of interest, are not easy to get and are dropping out of sight. The romance of Scotland's history has never been told so well as in the "Tales of a Grandfather." The same publishers issue "Stories from Dickens," by J. Walker McSpadden. The author keeps up the old time tradition that children should become acquainted with Dickens' unhealthy children. Here we find again Oliver Twist, Smike, Little Nell, Paul Dombey and Pip, with Little Dorrit and David Copperfield. Some of the horrors are toned down mercifully, but why cannot children be allowed to meet just the obdurate and sincere side of Dickens?

of democracy if public officials are on heads, from the President to the lowest to choose and discharge subordinates; and a return made to the towns-
men if Americans are free in name only, etc."

1. Machine Politics; 2. Organized Politics; 3. The Necessity of Reorganizing the present condition is that "party government more than government by machine means government by party but plutocracy." Mr. Stickney offers some very suggestive and definite

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Y. Crowell and Company publish also in the same set "Tales from Herodotus," by H. A. Havell. The selections are purely historical and fully half of the volume is given up to the stories of the struggle against Xerxes.

What modern fancy can do with the stories may be seen in an excellent collection of "Fairy Tales Retold from St. Nicholas" (The Century Company). There was plenty to choose from in a range of thirty-two

Continued on Tenth Page.

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